Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510May 26, 2004

The Honorable Ted Stevens Chairman, Committee on Appropriations Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable C. W. Bill Young Chairman, Committee on Appropriations H-218 The Capitol Washington, D.C. 20515 The Honorable Robert C. Byrd Ranking Member, Committee on Appropriations Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable David R. Obey Ranking Member, Committee on Appropriations 1016 Longworth House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairmen and Ranking Members:

We are writing to request \$237 million in supplemental appropriations for the Title I program. As you know, this program received a \$660 million increase for FY 2004. The relatively small amount of this increase coupled with the impact of newly issued Census data that shift funding will cause nearly 7,500 school districts to receive less Title I funding this July than last year.

Widespread local cuts in Title I funding would be extremely destructive to our schools if allowed to occur at a time when many are working hard to meet the challenges of the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB). Unfortunately, the Appropriations Committees were not informed of the magnitude of the impact of this new Census data in advance of full consideration of the FY 2004 appropriations bill. This left little opportunity for Congress to factor the effects of the new data into the regular appropriations process.

Accordingly, we request that the House and Senate Appropriations Committee consider a supplemental appropriation for Title I of \$237 million. This amount of funding would be sufficient to ensure that no school district receives less Title I funding this Fall than it received in the prior year. Widespread and in many cases deep cuts in local Title I funding could make efforts to implement NCLB substantially more difficult and dramatically undermine support for education reform. It is a cost the Nation cannot afford.

We look forward to working with you on this request and to ensure our school districts have the resources they need to implement NCLB.

Edward Kennedy

United States Senate

Sincerely,

Member of Congress

Mark Dayton Bob Graham Jack Reed Jeff Bin

Chin Dropol	Sin Oh
Christopher J. Dodd	Tim Johnson Charles Schung
Patrick J. Leahy Tohn Edwards	Herb Kohl
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Louise Slaughter	ale E. Kildee
Earl Blumenauer	Maxine Waters
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Sherrod Brown	Carolyn Maloney
Lynn Woolsey	Martin Frost

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Bernard Sanders	Martin Meehan Huhan
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Julia Carson	- Raul Grijalva Mijdre
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Rush Hölt	Joseph Hoeffel
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James McGovern Sander Levin John Conyers Michael Capuano	K.